(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of chemicals manufactured in the country and also the chemicals imported in the country by the pharma industries; and

(d) the measures to prevent the illegal manufacture of banned chemicals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) India produces a vast number of chemicals. Similarly, numerous chemicals are also imported for use in pharmaceutical industry.

(d) Government can take measures under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Insecticides Act, 1968, etc. to prevent the manufacture of banned chemicals.

Increasing Items for Distribution Through FPSs

*279. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the items of commodities for distribution among the consumers through Fair Price Shops, separately for BPL and APL families;

(b) whether the number of items will be increased; and

(c) if so, the names of the new items?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Central Government presently makes available to the States wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) under the Public Distribution System. The levy sugar supply under PDS has been restricted to BPL families in all States and UTs except in the North Eastern States/Hill States and Island Territories. Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the FPSs such as cloth, exercise books, pulses, salt and tea etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.